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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 18 public bills, H.R. 4521–4538; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 560–561 were introduced. **Pages H3363–64**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H3364–65**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3295**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3299**

**Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015:** The House passed H.R. 4486, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 187.

**Pages H3301, H3308–58**

Agreed to:

Turner amendment (No. 4 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that redirects \$20,000,000 in funding for Military Construction, Defense-Wide for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services; **Pages H3320–26**

Sinema amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs by \$1,000,000 to investigate deaths at veterans' health facilities;

**Pages H3326–28**

Costa amendment that increases funding, by offset, for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration by \$10,500,000 to assist in the reduction of veterans' disability claims backlog;

**Pages H3328–29**

Ruiz amendment that redirects \$5,000,000 in funding for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration for digital scanning of health and benefits files to reduce the benefits claims backlog;

**Pages H3329–32**

Rothfus amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2014) that prohibits funds from being used by the Secretary of Veterans

Affairs to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code; **Pages H3339–43**

Murphy (FL) amendment that prohibits funds from being used to maintain or improve Department of Defense real property with a zero percent utilization rate according to the Department's real property inventory database, except in the case of maintenance of an historic property or maintenance to prevent a negative environmental impact; **Page H3343**

Ross amendment that prohibits funds from being used to close a commissary store; **Pages H3343–44**

Runyan amendment that prohibits funds from being used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure round;

**Pages H3349–50**

Gosar amendment that prohibits funds from being used to create or maintain any patient record-keeping system other than those currently approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC;

**Pages H3350–51**

Grayson amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if that offeror has (A) within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of a fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or (B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or (C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied;

**Page H3351**

Gosar amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Department of Veterans Affairs Departmental Administration, Information Technology Systems by \$3,215,910; **Pages H3351–52**

Jackson Lee amendment that prohibits funds made available for benefits for homeless veterans and training and outreach programs from being used in contravention of subchapters II and III of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code; **Pages H3352–53**

Peters amendment that prohibits funds from being used for a contract that includes first-class travel by a contractor; **Page H3354**

Nunes amendment that prohibits funds from being used for the closure or abandonment of any facility located at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal; **Page H3354**

Walorski amendment that prohibits funds from being used to implement sole source contracting at the national level for the selection of devices and test strips for the self-monitoring of blood glucose; and **Pages H3354–55**

Noem amendment that prohibits funds from being used to prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to a health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is (1) designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; and (2) located in a highly rural area. **Page H3355**

Rejected:

Moran amendment (No. 5 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that sought to strike section 411, which prohibits funds from being used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment (by a recorded vote of 168 ayes to 249 noes, Roll No. 185) and **Pages H3337–39, H3355–56**

Blumenauer amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to implement Veterans Health Administration directive 2011–004 with respect to the prohibition on “VA providers from completing forms seeking recommendations or opinions regarding a Veteran’s participation in a State marijuana program” (by a recorded vote of 195 ayes to 222 noes, Roll No. 186). **Pages H3344–49, H3356–57**

Withdrawn:

Castor (FL) amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding, by offset, for Military Construction, Air Force by \$9,800,000 to address black mold in military facilities; **Page H3320**

Terry amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited funds from being used for administrative expenses of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets with the Nebraska delegation to discuss alternative options for the Department of

Veterans Affairs hospital planned for construction in Omaha, Nebraska; and **Pages H3332–34**

LaMalfa amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have allowed a case-worker in a congressional office to contact a Department of Veterans Affairs brokered office to receive an update on a constituent’s case, and that brokered office of the Department is required to update the congressional staffer. **Pages H3334–37**

Point of Order sustained against:

Takano amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2014) that sought to prohibit funds from being used for the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program for career education programs at proprietary institutions unless the successful completion of the curriculum fully qualifies a student (1) to take an examination required for entry into an occupation or profession, including satisfying all State-mandated programmatic and specialized accreditation requirements and (2) to be certified or licensed or to meet other academically-related pre-conditions of employment in the State in which the institution is located; **Page H3344**

Takano amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used by the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program or the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program for recruiting or marketing activities; and **Page H3350**

Farenthold amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government with respect to whom the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives has certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes. **Pages H3353–54**

H. Res. 557, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4486) and (H.R. 4487), was agreed to by voice vote after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 184. **Pages H3301–08**

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the victims of recent tornadoes. **Page H3356**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, May 1st. **Page H3362**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3307–08., H3355–56, H3356–57, H3357. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit held a hearing entitled “To review the State of the Livestock Industry”. Testimony was heard from Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a markup on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill FY 2015. The bill was ordered reported to the Full Committee without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded, as amended, to the Full Committee.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a markup on H.R. 4435, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. The bill was forwarded to the Full Committee without amendment.

### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WAR ON POVERTY: LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

*Committee on The Budget:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Lessons from the Frontlines”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 2689, the “Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act”; H.R. 4092, the “Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014”; and H.R. 6, the “Domestic Property and Global Freedom Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 2689; H.R. 4092; and H.R. 6.

### EXAMINING HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN PROMOTE CONSUMER FINANCIAL LITERACY

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining How Technology Can Promote Consumer Financial Literacy”. Testimony was heard from Alice Puente Cackley, Director, Financial Services and General Government Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4490, the “United States International Communications Reform Act of 2014”; H.R. 4028, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; H. Res. 520, calling for an end to attacks on Syrian civilians and expanded humanitarian access; and H. Con. Res. 51, Immediate Establishment of Syrian War Crimes Tribunal Resolution. The following bills and resolutions were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4490; H.R. 4028; H. Res. 520; and H. Con. Res. 51.

### ASSESSING U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES IN SOUTH ASIA

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “Assessing U.S. Foreign Assistance Priorities in South Asia”. Testimony was heard from Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State; and Denis Rollins, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3283, the “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2013”; H.R. 4007, the “Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of